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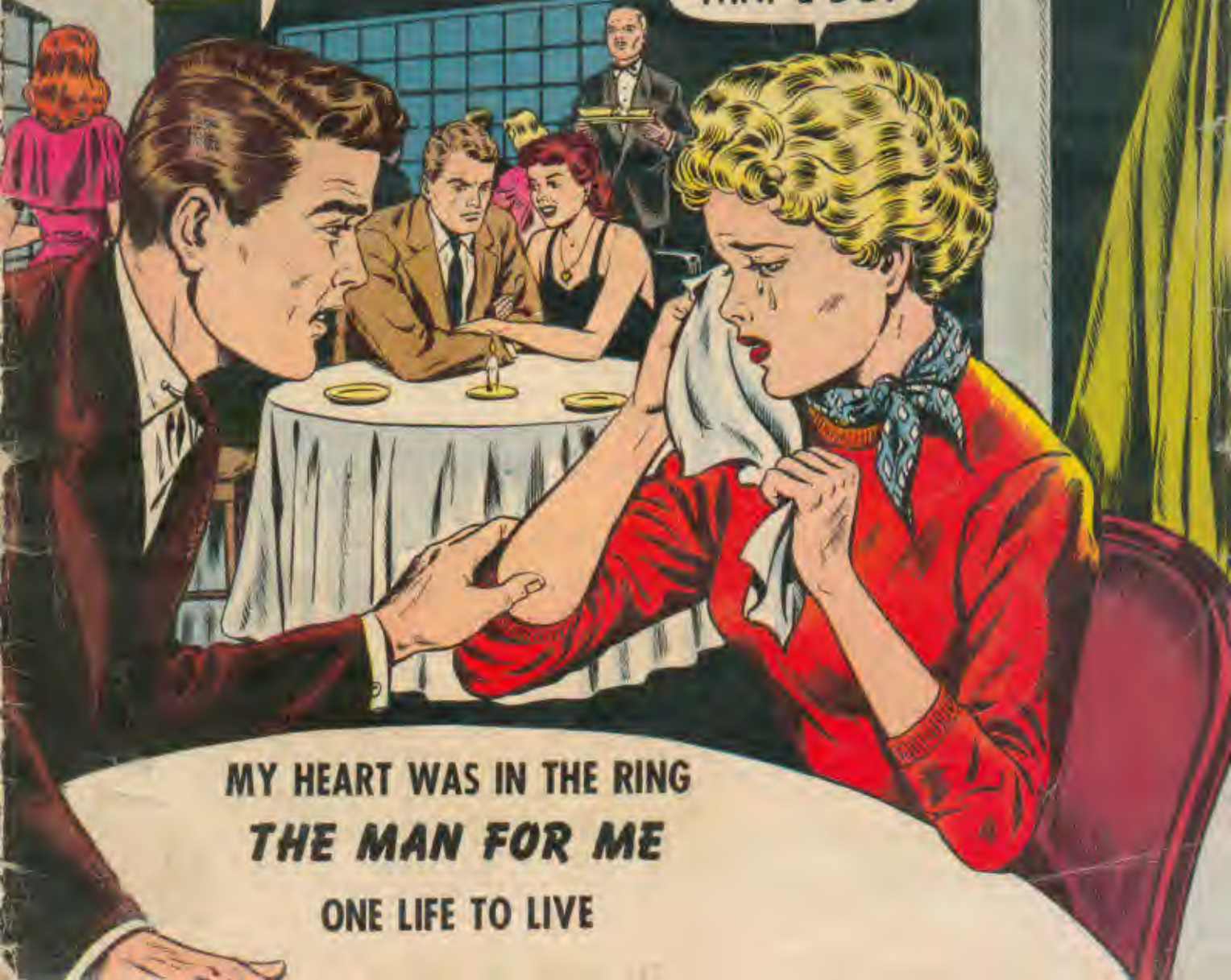
Exotic ROMANCES

BRIAN GRAYSON STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO HELP ME WIN BACK GIL ROBERTS...
BUT SOMETIMES THINGS CHANGE WHEN YOU'RE..."

MURIEL,
DON'T LET
HIM KNOW
YOU LOVE
HIM!

THE GIRL WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND

I'M NOT SURE NOW
THAT I DO!



MY HEART WAS IN THE RING
THE MAN FOR ME
ONE LIFE TO LIVE



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The MAN FOR ME



WHEN A GENTLE BREEZE RIPPLES THE BLUE
PACIFIC AND MOONLIGHT, FILTERED BY THE PALMS,
MAKES PATTERNS ON THE CORAL BEACH, IT'S EASY TO
THINK YOU'RE IN LOVE! IN SUCH AN ENCHANTED MOMENT
YOU MAKE PROMISES YOUR HEART WON'T LET YOU
KEEP! THEN, IN THE SEARCHING LIGHT OF DAY, YOU
REALIZE, TOO LATE, THAT YOU LOATHE THE LIPS YOU
KISSED AND THE ARMS THAT CARESSED YOU!
IT HAPPENED TO ME... AND PERHAPS THE
ANGUISHED TEARS I SHED WILL BE YOUR
WARNING!

With so many of the young men in my home town going into the service, I decided to become a WAC! The adventure and romance which had attracted me came sooner than I expected!



IF I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE SHOCKED, I'D OFFER TO BE YOUR GUIDE! NOTHING I LIKE BETTER THAN SHOWING OFF OAHU!

AND IF I THOUGHT YOU MEANT THAT, I'D TAKE YOU UP ON THE INVITATION!



Back home I would have frowned upon that meeting as a "pickup", but on the island life seemed so carefree and casual! Besides, the admiration that flashed in the stranger's eyes fascinated me!

SO YOU'RE FREE UNTIL MONDAY! THAT SHOULD GIVE US TIME TO SEE THE HIGH-LIGHTS!

CAN YOU SPARE THE TIME? I MEAN ... DON'T YOU HAVE A JOB, OR...



GOOD NIGHT! YOU'VE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF AND I HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD YOU MY NAME! I'M WALTER LELAND!

LELAND! WHY... I'VE BEEN SEEING THAT NAME ON PINEAPPLE CANS SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL!



I DARE SAY YOU ENJOYED THE PINEAPPLE! MY FAMILY HAS ALWAYS PRIDED ITSELF ON THE PLANTATIONS THAT PRODUCE IT!

WALTER LELAND! WHY, THE LELANDS ARE ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST FAMILIES ON THE ISLAND! WAIT UNTIL THE GIRLS AT CAMP HEAR ABOUT THIS!



What had promised to be a lonely weekend was suddenly transformed into a storybook experience!

IF THIS IS LUALU, I'M ALL FOR IT! IT BEATS EATING IN A CROWDED MESS HALL!

YOU KNOW, IT'S FUN TAKING YOU PLACES! A LOT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SQUIR-ASTIC LITTLE GIRL AND A BLASE DEBUTANTE!



IT'S BEAUTIFUL, WALTER! BEAUTIFUL!

EVERYTHING SEEMS BEAUTIFUL, SEEN THROUGH YOUR EYES, KATHY! PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE SO YOUNG... AND SO LOVELY YOURSELF!



ISN'T THIS DIVINE? I THOUGHT PLACES LIKE THIS EXISTED ONLY IN THE TRAVEL FOLDERS!

IF YOU LIKE THIS, YOU'LL LOVE THE PLANTATION HOUSE! YOU'LL HAVE TO BE MY GUEST THERE SOON!



Every moment with Walter was an exhilarating adventure. No wonder I found myself eagerly awaiting the next time I would see him!

KATHY'S GOT THAT FAMILIAR LOOK! BET SHE FELL HARD FOR THAT CUTE CORPORAL WHO BEAT HER AT PING PONG YESTERDAY!



CORPORAL, MY EYE! DID YOU SEE WHO DROVE HER BACK TO BASE SUNDAY NIGHT?



COME ACROSS, KATHY! GIVE US YOUR FORMULA FOR LANDING PINEAPPLE TYCOONS!



HE DIDN'T KISS ME! BUT HE ACTED SO INTERESTED! AND HE DID MAKE A DATE TO SEE ME AGAIN!

And before another week had gone by...

I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT YOU EVERY MINUTE SINCE THAT LAST TIME, KATHY! YOU KNOW, AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A LARK... STEPPING OUT WITH SOMEONE NEW, SOMEONE I HAD MET AS UNCONVENTIONALLY AS WE DID!



WHAT DO YOU THINK NOW, WALTER?

I THINK YOU'RE LOVELY AND... AS CLOSE TO BEING MY IDEAL AS I CAN FIND THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN!



WALTER, YOU MUSTN'T!

All the standard romantic props were there! What if the possessive lips that crushed mine left me unshaken and unresponsive? In that glamorous setting, who can blame me if my hunger for love led me astray?



I LOVE YOU, KATHY! I WANT YOU TO BE MINE! PROMISE YOU'LL MARRY ME, DARLING!



YES, WALTER... OH, YES!

HE LOVES ME! I'M GOING TO MARRY WALTER LELAND... THE WALTER LELAND!



It was so thrilling to be loved, that the thought of anyone else being lonely seemed unbearable! Perhaps that was the reason my heart went out to the soldier I noticed in the rec hall one evening!



It was an impulsive thing to do, but Chet's wistful boyish expression drew me to him! He needed a friend and I could be that friend!



Walter's surly attitude revealed a new facet of his personality! Even though I was confident that our misunderstanding would be patched, my heart ached as I prepared for my "date".



I DON'T GET IT! FIRST SHE HAD A DATE WITH PINEAPPLE J. MUCHBUCKS! AND NOW HERE SHE IS MAKING WITH THE GLAMOR TO LISTEN TO A G.I. SOB STORY!

EVERY GAL TO HER OWN TASTE, I ALWAYS SAY!

And later...

...IT'S ROUGH ABOUT YOUR GIRL, CHET, BUT I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL! MY FIANCEE WALKED OUT ON ME TONIGHT!

NO! GOSH, IF I THOUGHT MAKING YOU BREAK YOUR DATE HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT...



WE CAME HERE TO TALK ABOUT YOU, REMEMBER?

THERE ISN'T MUCH TO SAY, EXCEPT THAT I'VE BEEN DITCHED! MAYBE I'LL TAKE YOUR ADVICE AND LOOK FOR ANOTHER GIRL! A GIRL I CAN BELIEVE IN!

Chet Harvey didn't look far or long! After that evening, he was like my shadow! Even after Walter apologized and we made up, Chet referred to me as his "best girl"!



GOLLY, THAT CAMP SHOW YOU'RE PLANNING SOUNDS SUPER! I'LL BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW I COULD HOOF! LOOK!

GREAT! MAYBE WE CAN WORK UP SOME ROUTINES TOGETHER AND... OH - OH! THERE'S WALTER! SEE YOU LATER, CHET!



DO YOU HAVE TO WALK TO THE GATE WITH THAT NINCOMPOOP TRAILING YOU?

OH, HE'S JUST A LONESOME KID, WALTER! I GUESS I DID TOO GOOD A JOB OF CHEERING HIM UP!



DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SHAKE THE PEST LONG ENOUGH TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AT A DINNER PARTY?

ME? GUEST OF HONOR AT A DINNER PARTY?



I SUPPOSE YOU'LL COME AS A BIT OF A SHOCK TO THE FAMILY AND MY FRIENDS, BUT IT'S HIGH TIME YOU MET THEM! MAKE SURE YOU LOOK YOUR LOVELIEST WHEN I PICK YOU UP THURSDAY EVENING!

I'LL TRY, WALTER! I DO WANT YOU TO BE PROUD OF ME!

I WANT TO BE ACCEPTED BY THOSE PEOPLE, CHET! AND YET... SUPPOSE THEY DON'T LIKE ME? WHAT IF THEY'RE SNOBS AND I FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND THEM?

THEY'LL LIKE YOU, KATHY! THEY'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY NOT TO LIKE YOU!

ANYWAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO GET ALL UPSET BEFORE YOU GO TO THAT PARTY! YOU'VE GOT A REHEARSAL SCHEDULED FOR EVERY AFTERNOON THIS WEEK!

EVEN THURSDAY! I HOPE I CAN PICK UP THAT CUTE ROUTINE YOU WORKED OUT!

DANCE HOUR 8-9-2

YIPPEEE! SHE DID IT!

LET'S RUN THROUGH IT AGAIN SO I WON'T FORGET!

A comic book panel featuring a man and a woman. The man, on the left, is wearing a grey fedora with an orange band and a dark suit. He has a slight smile and is looking towards the woman. A speech bubble above him contains the text "YES, BY ALL MEANS!". The woman, on the right, has short, wavy red hair and is wearing a purple strapless dress. She is looking at the man with an open mouth, as if speaking or reacting. A speech bubble above her contains the text "WALTER!". The background is a solid teal color.



DARLING, HOW YOU DO GET AROUND! I'M GLAD YOU'RE EARLY BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS ROUTINE!

I'VE SEEN ALL I WANT TO SEE! I SUPPOSE YOU KNOW YOU'VE RUINED THE DINNER PARTY!



RUINED IT? YES, LOOK AT THE TIME! WHY---/ OH, I'VE BEEN WAITING WALTER, I'LL AT THAT INFERNAL GATE SINCE SIX O'CLOCK! AND LOOK AT YOURSELF! IT WOULD TAKE ANOTHER TWO HOURS TO GET YOU PRESENTABLE!



PUTTING ON A CHEAP EXHIBITION FOR A CROWD OF SOLDIERS! AND DON'T THINK I MISSED THAT DISGUSTING SCENE YOU JUST PUT ON WITH THAT YOUNG PUNK!

I KNOW I DON'T HAVE AN EXCUSE IN THE WORLD FOR WHAT I'VE DONE, WALTER! BUT... YOU CAN'T TALK THAT WAY ABOUT MY FRIENDS!



YOUR FRIENDS? I SHOULD CONCERN MYSELF WITH RIFF-RAFF WHEN I'VE A HOUSEFUL OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE WAITING FOR ME? IT'LL BE HUMILIATING ENOUGH, EXPLAINING YOUR ABSENCE!

PERHAPS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE HUMILIATING EXPLAINING MY PRESENCE, WALTER!



IF THESE PEOPLE ARE RIFF-RAFF, THEN I'M RIFF-RAFF, TOO!

IT'LL GET ME A MONTH IN THE GUARDHOUSE, BUT SAY THE WORD AND I'LL REDUCE THIS GUY TO CRUSHED PINEAPPLE!



I MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF MY MIND THE DAY I PICKED YOU UP!

DON'T, CHET! LET HIM GO!



I'M SORRY, HONEY! I SHOULDN'T HAVE BLOWN MY TOP THAT WAY!

IT DOESN'T MATTER, CHET! SOB! IT DOESN'T MATTER! I KNEW IT...IT COULDN'T LAST!

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, KATHY! IT'S NOT EASY WHEN SOMEONE WALKS OUT OF YOUR LIFE! NOT EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW THAT SOMEONE IS A KEEL!

IT...IT SEEMS TO ME I TOLD YOU THAT ONCE, CHET!

YOU TOLD ME SOMETHING ELSE, TOO, KATHY! YOU SAID THAT IF I LOOKED LONG ENOUGH, I'D FIND SOMEONE WHO REALLY LOVED ME!

AND...WAS I RIGHT?

I DON'T KNOW, KATHY! MAYBE YOU CAN TELL ME!



Then, suddenly I realized that the tears on my cheeks were tears of anger, not of heartbreak...and for the first time, I saw Chet not as a boy who needed my help but as a man... a man I needed and loved!

I WAS RIGHT, CHET! THERE IS SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU...NOW!

DARLING!



WAIT FOR ME, KATHY! SOMEDAY, I'LL BE ABLE TO ASK YOU TO MARRY ME! FOR NOW JUST KNOWING YOU LOVE ME IS ENOUGH!

AND IF MY JOB CALLS FOR ME TO DEVOTE TIME TO OTHERS, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND, WON'T YOU, DEAR?



CHEER UP THE BOYS, SMILE AT 'EM! PLAY CHECKERS WITH 'EM! JUST SO YOU SAVE YOUR KISSES FOR ME!

OH, CHET! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT LOVE MEANT UNTIL THIS MINUTE!



I was at ease with Chet, perfectly at home in his protecting arms! And because he loved and understood, I was no longer torn between duty and love... they were synonymous!

When GIL ROBERTS LEFT OUR TOWN, HE TOOK MY HEART WITH HIM! HOW COULD I KNOW HOW SOON HE WOULD TOSS IT AWAY? HOW COULD I HAVE SUSPECTED THE SUFFERING AND ANGUISH THAT LAY AHEAD OF ME BECAUSE I WAS

The Girl Who Was Left Behind!



I REMEMBER SO VIVIDLY HOW GIL BROKE THE NEWS ABOUT HIS GOING AWAY! WE HAD BEEN TO A DANCE THAT EVENING! AND HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT UNTIL HE BROUGHT ME HOME! THEN...

MURIEL, I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU! IT MAY MAKE YOU A LITTLE BIT UNHAPPY!

UNHAPPY? WHAT'S WRONG?



NOTHING'S WRONG REALLY! ONLY WE'LL HAVE TO BE APART FOR A WHILE!

APART? WHY? OH, DARLING, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?





THAT I'VE LANDED A JOB IN THE CITY WITH THE SWANK PARIS CLUB! HANDLING PUBLIC RELATIONS! NOT BAD, HUH?

NO, I G-GUESS NOT! IT'S WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO!



ONLY I'LL ~~SOB~~ BE SO L-LONESOME HERE WITHOUT YOU!

DON'T WORRY, SWEETHEART! AFTER I GET SETTLED, I'LL SEND FOR YOU, OKAY?

AFTER THE FIRST BLOW, I BEGAN TO SEE THE MOVE AS A BREAK FOR US! WE WERE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED AND THE IDEA OF BEGINNING LIFE TOGETHER IN THE BIG CITY HELD GREAT PROMISE! YET I COULDN'T HELP FEELING SAD THE DAY GIL LEFT!



WRITE ME OFTEN, WON'T YOU?

SURE, I WILL! LOOK, HONEY, YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT ALL THIS!



IT'S GOING TO MEAN EVERYTHING TO OUR FUTURE!

I KNOW IT IS! GOOD-BYE, GIL! BE G-GOOD!



I STOOD THERE WAVING WHILE THE TRAIN PULLED AWAY! WITH GIL WENT MY TRUST AND DEEP, UNDYING DEVOTION! I'M GLAD I DIDN'T KNOW THEN HOW QUICKLY I WOULD BE FORGOTTEN! OH, SURE, I HAD LETTERS FROM HIM! BUT THEY WERE DREAMING!

A LETTER FROM GIL! ABOUT ALL HE SAYS IS THAT HE LIKES HIS JOB AND IS TOO BUSY TO WRITE VERY MUCH!



BUT THAT HE'LL WRITE ALL THE DETAILS LATER! HE ALWAYS SAYS THAT BUT HE NEVER DOES!

ONCE HE CAME THROUGH WITH A LETTER THAT GAVE ME HOPE! IT WAS SHORT BUT SWEET! IT WENT AS FOLLOWS...

Muriel, my dear -

I haven't meant to neglect you but I've been working night and day to get myself established in this business. And I'm meeting all the big shots... I mean really top crust. You'll get a kick out of knowing them and you'll like this life. More about it later.

Love,
Gil

THEN HE STILL EXPECTS ME TO JOIN HIM! I CAN KEEP ON PLANNING!



BUT PLANS WERE PALTRY SUBSTITUTES FOR THE SWEETHEART WHO WAS GONE... FOR THE LETTERS THAT DWINDLED AWAY UNTIL NONE CAME AT ALL... FOR THE LONELINESS THAT WAS TEARING MY HEART OUT! MONTHS PASSED AND THEN...

SOMETHING'S WRONG! I KNOW IT! AND I CAN'T STAND THE SUSPENSE OF WAITING!



I'M GOING TO THE CITY! WHEN GIL AND I GET TOGETHER AGAIN, EVERYTHING WILL BE JUST THE SAME AS BEFORE!



IN THAT, I WAS MISTAKEN! I'LL NEVER FORGET THE HORROR AND THE HUMILIATION I FELT WHEN I WENT TO THE PARIS CLUB TO SURPRISE HIM!

MURIEL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

GIL, AREN'T YOU GLAD TO SEE ME?



WHO IS SHE, GIL? YOU DIDN'T WARN ME ABOUT ANOTHER WOMAN IN YOUR LIFE!

THIS IS MURIEL KENT. MARGO! MURIEL, MISS DE VERE!



SHE'S... FROM MY HOME TOWN!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, DARLING! ONLY YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THERE WAS A GIRL YOU LEFT BEHIND!







I'M MAKING IT MY BUSINESS! NOW GIVE WITH THE STORY!

I GUESS I HAVE TO TELL SOMEONE! I HAVEN'T HAD ANYONE I COULD TALK TO!

I'LL NEVER KNOW WHY, BUT I POURED MY HEART OUT TO BRIAN GRAYSON, THE MAN WHO HAD STARTLED ME! WHEN YOU'RE IN A FRANTIC FRAME OF MIND, AS I WAS, I GUESS YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE! BESIDES, HE SEEMED SO UNDERSTANDING!



HONEY, I'M A NEWSPAPER MAN! I'VE HAD A LOT OF THIS SORT OF THING TO CONTENT WITH! BUT YOU'RE NOT THE TYPE! AND I'M NOT GOING TO TURN IN THE STORY!

WHY? WHAT DO I MEAN TO YOU?



PLENTY! YOU'RE A GOOD GAL WHO GOT A RAW DEAL! AND I WON'T HOLD STILL FOR THAT!

YOU MEAN YOU'LL GET GIL BACK FOR ME? I KNOW HE REALLY LOVES ME! HE'S JUST BEEN TAKEN IN BY MARGO DE VERE!



I KNOW MARGO VERY WELL! SHE'S FICKLE AND A FLIRT! DO YOU ACTUALLY WANT YOUR BOY FRIEND BACK? IF YOU DO, I'LL TRY TO ARRANGE IT!

OH, YES!

BRIAN BEGAN HIS CAMPAIGN THEN! TOLD ME WHAT TO WEAR AND HOW TO WEAR IT! HOW TO DO MY HAIR! HE TRAINED ME WELL BEFORE HE TOOK ME TO THE PARIS CLUB! AND HE SHOWED ME LOTS OF ATTENTION!



MURIEL!

WITH BRIAN!

COME, MURIEL DEAR! I RESERVED OUR TABLE EARLIER THIS EVENING!



TAKE MY ADVICE! DON'T GIVE THAT GUY, GIL, A SECOND GLANCE!

BUT...



DON'T LET HIM KNOW YOU LOVE HIM!

I'M NOT SURE NOW THAT I DO!

IT'S FUNNY, ISN'T IT, NOW QUICKLY LOVE CAN TURN TO HATRED? I WANTED GIL MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD UNTIL I HAD WON HIM BACK! IT WAS ANOTHER NIGHT AT THE PARIS CLUB!



MURIEL, I HAVE TO SEE YOU! THIS GRAYSON GUY HAS BEEN TAKING UP ALL YOUR TIME!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

I RESENT IT! WE WERE ENGAGED TO BE MARRIED AND...

WE WERE! BUT WE WERE NOT ANY LONGER, GIL! YOU MADE IT PRETTY PLAIN THAT YOU WEREN'T ANXIOUS TO SEE ME WHEN I CAME HERE!



LOVE HAS TO BE A LASTING THING! AT LEAST, WITH ME!

BUT, MURIEL, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!



I'M AFRAID I UNDERSTAND TOO WELL!

SHALL WE GO, DEAR?

BRIAN PUT ME INTO A CAB AND WE RODE FOR A LONG TIME WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING! THERE WAS A LOT I WANTED TO SAY, BUT I HAD MADE MISTAKES BEFORE! SO I KEPT SILENT!



THEN FINALLY...

DARLING, ARE YOU REALLY THROUGH WITH GIL? PLEASE SAY YOU ARE BECAUSE I LOVE YOU! I'VE TRIED SO HARD NOT TO SAY IT!

SAY IT, BRIAN! TELL ME OVER AND OVER! BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, TOO!



I KNOW NOW THAT GIL COULDN'T HAVE LOVED ME VERY MUCH AND LEFT ME AS HE DID!

I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU, MURIEL! WILL YOU MARRY ME REAL SOON?

I SAID "YES" AND I'VE NEVER BEEN SORRY! BRIAN IS A WONDERFUL HUSBAND! I'M GLAD NOW, THAT AS FAR AS GIL IS CONCERNED, I WAS THE GIRL WHO WAS LEFT BEHIND!

My HEART was in the RING

HE HASN'T GOT A CHANCE IN THAT FIGHT I'VE BOOKED! MARTY'S A WASHOUT!

TOO BAD YOU SIGNED HIM UP!



HIS FIGHTING CAREER SHATTERED WHEN HIS LEGS GAVE OUT. MY BROTHER JIM CUT HIMSELF OFF FROM THE BOXING WORLD HE LOVED AND WARNED ME... "I'LL NEVER LET YOU MARRY A FIGHTER, NANCY! THE RING CAN NEVER MEAN ANYTHING BUT HEARTBREAK!" AND THEN I FELL IN LOVE WITH MARTY JOYCE AND LEARNED THE WISDOM OF THOSE BITTER WORDS!

JIM SPOKE OF HIS SHORT-LIVED BOXING CAREER ONLY RARELY!

WORKING AT A DRILL PRESS ISN'T AS GLAMOROUS AS FIGHTING, BUT IT'S A LIVING, RIGHT, NANCY?

BUT YOU AREN'T HAPPY, JIM! I WORRY ABOUT YOU!



LET ME WORRY ABOUT YOU, SIS! YOU RUN THE HOUSE AND I'LL BRING HOME THE BACON!

SOMETIMES I THINK YOU'VE LOST INTEREST IN LIFE!



MAYBE I DID... BUT THAT'S WHAT THE FIGHT GAME DOES TO FAILURES! DON'T EVER WASTE YOUR TIME ON A BOXER, NANCY! IF YOU'RE GOING TO FALL IN LOVE, FALL FOR A BOOKKEEPER OR A STORE CLERK!

LOVE IS SOMETHING I HAVEN'T HAD TO WORRY ABOUT, JIM! NOT YET!



BUT FATE HAS AN IRONICAL WAY OF CHANGING OUR PLANS AND PROMISES!

YOU AND MARTY OUGHT TO HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT! NANCY'S BROTHER WAS A BOXER, MARTY!

I'D RATHER TALK ABOUT NANCY!



ARE YOU REALLY A FIGHTER?

SO THEY TELL ME! I WAS JUST AN AMATEUR A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND THEN AL GRAW SPOTTED ME AND SIGNED ME UP!



I'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM! HE'S QUITE A MANAGER!

BEST IN THE BUSINESS! AND I'M REALLY ANXIOUS TO GO PLACES! I GUESS YOU KNOW HOW WRAPPED UP A MAN CAN GET IN THE FIGHT GAME!



I LIKED MARTY FROM THE MOMENT I MET HIM, AND FROM THAT EVENING ON, I SAW HIM REGULARLY!

SAY, WHO'S THIS NEW HEART-THROB, NANCY? WHY HAVEN'T YOU BROUGHT HIM AROUND?

I WILL, JIM... ONE OF THESE EVENINGS!

JIM WOULD BE FURIOUS IF HE KNEW WHAT MARTY DOES FOR A LIVING!



AND, SO... I KEPT MY DATES WITH MARTY SECRET! THEN, ONE EVENING...

IT'S GOING TO MEAN A LOT, NANCY, KNOWING YOU'RE PULLING FOR ME IN THAT FIGHT WITH LOU DAMON!



I'D RATHER HAVE YOU IN MY ARMS, SWEETHEART! I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO TELL YOU THAT... I LOVE YOU!

I'VE HOPED FOR THAT, DARLING! YOU SEE, I... I LOVE YOU, TOO!



MARTY'S LIPS AND MINE FUSED IN A KISS THAT TOLD ME THERE COULD BE NO MORE SECRETS! I WAS HOPELESSLY, DESPERATELY IN LOVE WITH HIM!



SOME OF JIM'S ENTHUSIASM SEEMED TO RETURN AS HE WAITED FOR MARTY THAT EVENING...

MY CAREER MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHORT, BUT I NEVER LOST A FIGHT! AND IF MARTY'S GOT SPEED AND STAMINA, I KNOW I CAN GIVE HIM SOME GOOD TIPS!

HE'LL BE GRATEFUL, JIM! I KNOW HE WILL!



BUT LATER...

...AND THEN THERE WAS THE MATCH WITH KID ROSCOE! HE HAD A POWERFUL RIGHT, BUT HE MADE THE SAME MISTAKE LOU DAMON MAKES!

ER... IT'S GETTING LATE AND AL'S FUSSY ABOUT ME GETTING TO BED EARLY!



WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOUR FIGHTS AGAIN, JIM... SOME OTHER NIGHT!

BUT, MARTY...

HE'S RIGHT, NANCY! WE'LL GET TOGETHER SOME OTHER NIGHT! REST IS PLENTY IMPORTANT TO ANY ATHLETE!

BUT DON'T FORGET, MARTY... JIM'S WILLING TO COACH YOU IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOUR MANAGER!

WELL, I... I ALREADY HAVE A GOOD TRAINER! BUT THANKS ANYWAY, JIM! GOOD NIGHT!

LOTS OF LUCK, BOY!



THE EVENING HAD BEEN A DISMAL FAILURE, WITH MARTY OBVIOUSLY BORED! AND AFTER HE LEFT, I COULDN'T HELP NOTICING THE BITTER EXPRESSION ON JIM'S FACE!

I'M SORRY, JIM! HE WAS... TERRIBLY INCONSIDERATE!

DON'T BLAME HIM, NANCY! HE'S A YOUNG KID ON HIS WAY UP!

WHY SHOULD HE TAKE ADVICE FROM A BROKEN-DOWN PUG WHO WORKS IN A FACTORY?

I WON'T FORGIVE MARTY FOR THIS! JIM LOOKS LIKE A BEATEN OLD MAN... AND HE'S TO BLAME!



I WAS STILL SEETHING WITH ANGER WHEN I DROVE OUT TO AL GRAW'S TRAINING CAMP WITH MARTY THE NEXT NIGHT!

HE COULD HAVE HELPED YOU! AND WHAT DO YOU DO? ACT LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL!

ALL RIGHT! SO MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE HUMORED HIM!



HUMORED HIM? WHY, JIM WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE BIG TIME WHEN HE DEVELOPED THAT MUSCULAR CONDITION!

SURE... SURE! LOOK, HONEY, THE WOODS ARE FULL OF CHAMPIONS LIKE HIM!



LOOK, IF I TOOK ADVICE FROM EVERY HAS-BEEN IN THE GAME, I'D GO CRAZY!

YOU CAN'T TALK THAT WAY ABOUT MY BROTHER!



WELL, IT'S TRUE! HE FIGHTS A COUPLE OF MATCHES AND THEN SPENDS THE REST OF HIS LIFE TALKING ABOUT IT! HE'S A GREAT GUY, BUT...

WHY, YOU CONCEITED, SHORT-SIGHTED FOOL!



YOUR OWN MANAGER DOESN'T GIVE YOU A CHANCE TO WIN THAT FIGHT WITH LOU DAMON, AND YOU'RE TOO STUBBORN TO TAKE A FEW TIPS!

NOT FROM YOUR BROTHER. NO!

THEN DON'T EXPECT ME TO BE THERE CHEERING FOR YOU! YOU'LL BE THE HAS-BEEN AFTER THAT FIGHT!

OH, I WILL? IT'S NICE TO KNOW HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT ME!



YOU'RE NOT ON MY SIDE... YOU'RE TOO BUSY BABYING YOUR BROTHER!

YOU... YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE! SOB! I'M SORRY I EVER MET YOU!



I LEFT MARTY WITH A TURMOIL OF CONFUSED EMOTIONS FIGHTING INSIDE ME! AND WHEN THE ANGER FADED AWAY!

SOB! OH, MARTY, WHY CAN'T YOU SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO YOURSELF? SOB! I WANTED TO HELP YOU, DARLING, AND NOW I'VE LOST YOU!



NANCY? HEY, NOW... WHAT'S WRONG, SIS?

NOTHING'S WRONG, JIM! SOB! REALLY... IT'S NOTHING AT ALL!



ALL THROUGH THE WEEK THAT FOLLOWED, I HID THE SECRET IN MY ANGUISHED HEART FROM JIM! BUT ONE DAY...

DON'T TRY TO FOOL ME, NANCY! YOU HAVEN'T SEEN MARTY JOYCE ALL WEEK! THAT'S WHAT'S WRONG, ISN'T IT?

OH, JIM...!



IS IT SOMETHING HE SAID ABOUT ME? BECAUSE I'M NOT WORTH ALL THIS MISERY, SIS!

YOU ARE, JIM! YOU COULD HAVE FOUGHT RINGS AROUND HIM, BUT HE WOULDN'T LISTEN! AND NOW... IT'S TOO LATE TO HELP HIM!



IT'S NOT TOO LATE! NOT IF YOU LOVE HIM, NANCY! NOT IF YOU'RE WILLING TO FIGHT TO KEEP HIM!

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ME! IT'S ALL OVER, JIM!



I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE YOU KIDS BREAKING UP BECAUSE I'M A SAP WHO LIVES IN THE PAST! WE'RE GOING DOWN TO THE GYM AND SET HIM STRAIGHT!



AND SOON...

MARTY'S BEEN A WRECK SINCE HE HAD THAT SCRAP WITH YOU, HID! MAYBE YOU CAN CHEER HIM UP, BUT IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO GET HIM INTO SHAPE FOR THAT BRAWL WITH DAMON!

DAMON ISN'T TOO TOUGH TO BEAT!





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GILDED LOVE

JERRY RAND met my sister, Edith, the first time he came to take me out. Edith introduced herself as I entered the room. I can still see the wide-eyed look of wonderment on Jerry's face as he looked at her. And the vicious pang of jealousy that sprang through me is just as vivid in my memory. Jerry's adoring look wasn't surprising. Edith is one of the top models in New York. Her beauty is like a precious hothouse plant that must be tended and nurtured and looked after.

I was plain by comparison. I knew that well. But determination hardened in me that night, when I had to speak twice before Jerry turned to look at me. "Oh hello, Betty," he smiled, somewhat flustered. We left moments later, to spend what was for me, the most enchanting evening ever. How I loved that man. But I felt that he wasn't even mildly attracted to me after meeting Edith.

So, the next day I enrolled in the swankiest beauty course in town and started the rigid training and exercising that is the first essential to the sleek figure and smart good looks I hoped to attain for Jerry's sake. He was out of town on business for two weeks and I spent every free moment at the salon. It was much too expensive for my small earnings, but I wanted Jerry more than anything in the world.

Edith was the first to comment on the change in my appearance. "Why, Betty, you're actually looking quite chic these days. Is that new boyfriend the inspiration?" She smiled knowingly. I was a little annoyed at the transparency of what I was doing, but after all, Edith was my sister and good friend. I told her all about the course. "Smart gal," she nodded approvingly. "Let me give you some models' tips on make-up. Those eyebrows have tremendous possibilities. Honestly, Betty, I thought you just couldn't be bothered or I would have offered to give you a little coaching long before this." I submitted willingly to Edith's efforts, but the results were so amazing I hardly recognized that sophisticated creature in the mirror. So I decided to make the change in my make-up a more gradual thing.

My mind was taken off the beauty routine when Jerry

took me out to dinner again and followed it up with almost nightly dates. I was convinced that my torturous hours at the salon were paying off. Then came the thrilling evening when he proposed. "You're just the girl I've always wanted to meet, Betty," he murmured as he held me close. "And now I'd like to spend my life with you. Will you marry me, darling?"

I returned home in an ecstasy of delight. Edith knew immediately what had happened. "You see?" she chirped. "The old glamour really pays off." Suddenly a shadow fell over me. I was just a little sorry that I'd had to make so many changes in my appearance before Jerry really seemed to notice me. But I soon shook off the doldrums and renewed my determination to stay glamorous. The next night I met him in full battle array... the elaborate make-up job which Edith carefully applied and garbed in one of her evening gowns. Jerry looked slightly non-plussed when I met him at the door, the same expression I'd seen on his face when he saw Edith. But as the evening wore on, he was strangely quiet. And on the way home he sat away in the corner of the taxi and just stared at me. Finally I said, "What's the matter, Jerry?" "You look like Edith," he replied softly. "Why thank you, that's a great compliment." I said gayly. "I don't mean it that way, Betty," he said firmly. I must have looked astonished, but that didn't stem the tide of words that followed. He told me that the first thing he liked about me was my naturalness, my fresh, clean good looks. "But," I protested, "The way you looked at Edith that first night, I thought..." "Well you thought wrong," he exploded. "If I stared at her it was because she was so startling looking." My first impulse was to cry but instead I went into gales of laughter and as he looked at me in surprise, I poured out the story of my beauty course and Edith's tutoring.

The first thing I did when we got to my home was to scrub my face with soap and water and vigorously brush out my hair. Then I returned to the living room to Jerry. He gathered me into his arms, tenderly. "Mmmmm," he sighed. "You're the gal for me... just naturally sweet and good looking!"

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ONE LIFE *to* LIVE

CAROL, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

I DON'T KNOW, VIC! I WANT TO ONLY...! GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME TO THINK IT OVER!

I LOVED VIC DEEPLY AND WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED HIS PROPOSAL IN A MINUTE IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR MY SINGING CAREER! I HAD ALWAYS DREAMED OF HITTING THE BIG TIME AND I KNEW I COULDN'T HAVE BOTH! I FELT I HAD BUT ONE LIFE TO LIVE AND WANTED TO GET THE MOST OUT OF IT!

9

WHAT SHALL I DO? IF I GET THE BIG BREAK I'VE BEEN WORKING FOR, IT WOULD TAKE ME AWAY FROM HERE TO THE CITY.

VIC'S POSITION AS A CHEMICAL ENGINEER IS TOPS! HE'D ALWAYS BE ABLE TO GIVE ME EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE RECOGNITION OR FAME THAT MIGHT COME FROM MY MUSIC!



Two nights later, I gave Vic my answer but without the conviction I should have felt! It seemed that I was closing the door on all my chances for achievement!



I doubt that a man ever adored a girl more than Vic Granger did me! He stood by patiently while I took the bows and received the applause which seemed so essential in my life!





AFTER WE'RE MARRIED, I WANT YOU TO KEEP ON WITH YOUR SINGING! DO THE SAME THINGS YOU'RE DOING NOW!

I WANT MORE THAN THAT! BUT MARRIAGE WILL MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE!

There's an exalted feeling that surges through you as a result of success! It's a sensation of accomplishment and pride apart from other emotions! The next day I experienced it at its fullest!



MISS NOLAN, MEET MR. SANDERS! HE HEARD YOUR RECITAL LAST NIGHT AND HAS BEEN WAITING TO SEE YOU!

YOU HAVE A LOT OF TALENT, YOUNG LADY! I'M A SCOUT SO I KNOW!



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO NEW YORK AND TRY OUT FOR A BROADWAY MUSICAL?

OH, I'D LOVE IT! THAT'S WHAT I'VE WANTED ALL MY LIFE!



ONLY...! CAN I HAVE A DAY OR SO TO THINK IT OVER AND LET YOU KNOW?

OF COURSE! DECIDE AND WIRE ME! BUT MY ADVICE IS NOT TO SAY NO!

My big chance had come, something that thousands of girls would have given their right arms for! Yet I was uncertain! I had promised to marry Vic and wanted him but how could I have both?



VIC, SOMETHING CAME UP TODAY! A TALENT SCOUT WHO HEARD ME LAST NIGHT WANTS TO AUDITION ME FOR A MUSICAL IN NEW YORK!

AND YOU WANT TO GO! IS THAT IT?



I DON'T KNOW! I WANT IT BUT I WANT YOU, TOO!

THEN IT'S SETTLED! YOU'D NEVER BE HAPPY WITH ME, FEELING THAT YOU'D PASSED UP THIS OPPORTUNITY! AND THAT WOULD MAKE ME MISERABLE!



TRY IT OUT AND DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT! I'LL WAIT!

OH, GEE, YOU'RE SWEET!

I felt hollow and horrible about leaving Vic! And it didn't make it any easier when I drove to the plant the next afternoon to pick him up!



A pang of jealousy darted through me like a sharp pain! Jean Winters was Vic's secretary and he was fond of her. I doubted the wisdom of my decision but the die was cast! A few days later...





I was cast in the show in the chorus! It didn't pay much but at least it was big time. I rented a small one room apartment and had everything I wanted except Vic!



I felt alone and depressed! Was I losing Vic? The show opened and folded in a week and I was preparing to pack and go home when I met Mr Sanders!



The show was a hit and ran for months! I was an insignificant group singer on a small salary! I lived for Vic's letters but they were mostly full of Jeannie! Then one day...



Replacing me in the show was easy! I was sure I wanted to go home but uncertain as to what I would find there! My arrival seemed to confirm my most woeful suspicions!



I'm thoroughly content and ecstatically happy. With only one life to live, no person can have everything. And I know now what I want.

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